

\$80 ball gown on sale for \$20 at a Louisville department store.

Dave Disponett's rising influence as a GOP activist and fundraiser in Kentucky has given his family increasingly better inaugural access since their first trip in 1969, which Dave and his wife, Brenda, believe was their first trip outside Kentucky. Campaign finance records show Disponett gave \$2,000 to the Bush re-election campaign last year, while Brenda gave \$2,750 to the National Federation of Republican women.

Disponett's life as a Republican began in 1953, when he went to register to vote and was told by an Anderson County clerk that there was no point in registering as a Republican since no Republican candidates could get elected in Lawrenceburg. That struck Disponett as not exactly in the democratic spirit, so he registered Republican. In 1967, he helped elect Louis Nunn as Kentucky's first Republican governor in 24 years. That began Disponett's side career as a Republican Party power broker, which facilitated his family's ritual of watching a president get sworn in.

#### RICH MEMORIES

That first year, in 1969, the Disponetts didn't to Inaugural Balls, because, they recall, they couldn't afford the \$100 tickets. They were also fairly dazzled by the Washington scene.

The family didn't go attend Nixon's second-term inauguration in 1973 because of financial reasons, but headed back in 1981 for Reagan's first inauguration. They remember the excitement of the crowd when the 52 U.S. hostages were released by Iran, and that the National Christmas Tree—kept dark because of the hostage crisis—was turned on at last. "I get goose bumps just thinking about it," Lois Ann says.

By 1981, Dave Disponett also was on his way to becoming a GOP insider. He has a signed photograph of Reagan from the occasion, on the back of which is a note from the late Lee Atwater, Reagan's political director. In 1985, the Disponetts were connected enough to have been invited to attend balls, though Lois Ann says she was surprised that they were so crowded and featured so little dancing. From George H.W. Bush's inauguration in 1989, Dave Disponett proudly shows an unopened commemorative bottle of Korbel champagne, which he bought for \$25. After eight years of Democratic rule, the family returned to their inaugural haunts in 2001, where they had the pick of events because Sen. Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, was a key inaugural organizer.

That year also marked Anna-Marie's inaugural debut. And while she fell asleep in her father's arms during President Bush's inaugural address, the experience does seem to have had an effect. She recently asked her grandfather how old he would be in 2030, when she will be 35 and old enough to run for governor in Kentucky. Dave Disponett now says he has a compelling reason to live to be 94.

Charlie Brotman, the Inaugural Parade announcer, says that despite the security and exclusivity now associated with inaugurations, the event remains a moment of national ceremony that touches even the most cynical Americans. "Fathers and mothers tell me they want to take their children, so their kids can tell their kids that they were there. It's all about the memories."

For the Disponetts, it certainly is. Their job now is to try to keep Anna-Marie from becoming too nonchalant about going to the inaugurations. When her mother told her recently that this year, she'll actually get to

dance at a ball, Anna-Marie answered, "Well, what else would you do?"

#### TRIBUTE TO SAMANTHA LOUISE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as I was sitting at the West Front of the Capitol on this Inauguration Day listening to the speech of the President and the hopes of all the speakers for a fresh beginning, I kept thinking of another fresh beginning that occurred yesterday when our daughter Kate presented her husband Howard with a second daughter and her daughter Bess with a sister, Samantha Louise.

While the hopes for a new beginning of an administration are always tempered by time and reality, the hopes which spring from a new baby are boundless.

And so, at the inaugural lunch today in Statuary Hall, Senator WARNER and his wife Jeanne and General Myers and Mrs. Myers, as well as our other lunch partners, raised our glasses in congratulations and best wishes to the President and Vice President, but also graciously and gleefully raised their glasses with my wife Barb and me in salute to the birth of our granddaughter Samantha Louise.

I know my colleagues will forgive this burst of a grandfather's pride as we undertake the serious business before us.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAN SOELTER

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, it is my privilege to honor a very special woman for her nearly 25 years of service with the Social Security Administration. Jan Soelter was raised in Billings, MT, and was a Billings Senior High School graduate. Jan furthered her education at Eastern Montana College, now MSU-Billings, and graduated with honors, obtaining a combination of degrees with a major in psychology and a minor in art.

Ms. Soelter was hired as a Service Representative at the Billings Social Security Administration in January of 1980. She was rapidly promoted to data review technician in 1981, claims representative in Bozeman, MT, in 1982, and transferred back to Billings as a field representative in 1985. Jan found her true calling when she was promoted, in 2002, to her present position as public affairs specialist.

Ms. Soelter served on the Board of Directors: in the early 1970's for the Billings Multiple Sclerosis Society, Helping Hands from 1991 through 1993, and from 1994 to 2000 for the Billings Community Center.

Jan has participated in local, regional and national workshops and conferences. She has also received many local, regional, and national awards and recognition for her employment with the Social Security Administration.

When Jan Soelter retired on December 31, 2004, we lost a very dedicated and caring public servant. She is an inspiration to us all, and a tireless worker for the cause of Senior Citizens. I have personal knowledge of Jan's dedication, drive and commitment, not only to her profession, but more importantly to the people she worked with, and the citizens she worked for. Thank you, Jan, for your service to our country.

#### THE COLLEGE OF ST. CATHERINE

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. president, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the College of St. Catherine, in St. Paul, MN, on the celebration of its centennial year. St. Catherine is our country's largest Catholic college for women. Its numerous academic achievements would be impressive for a college of any size, but for an institution with fewer than 5,000 students, such accomplishments are downright spectacular.

Since its founding 100 years ago, the College of St. Catherine has expanded its student body from high school and lower division college students to include associate, bachelor's and graduate degree candidates in more than 60 fields. In 1937, St. Catherine became the first Catholic college to be awarded a chapter of the national honor society, Phi Beta Kappa.

Today, the College of St. Catherine continues to distinguish itself as a leading institution for women's education. Its Women of Substance series features lectures and performances of theater, music, and dance by female speakers and artists from around the world. In the classroom, the college's new Centers for Excellence focus on the role of women in such diverse fields as public policy, spirituality, and health.

Annually, the College of St. Catherine graduates more nurses than any other college or university in Minnesota. It is second only to the much larger University of Minnesota in the number of public school teachers it has educated and placed in the State's capital city of St. Paul.

Along with all of the Minnesotans whose lives have benefited from the talents, professionalism, and leadership of St. Catherine's outstanding graduates, I would like to say thank you. The College of St. Catherine's commitment to the highest standards of academic excellence and social responsibility have enriched the lives of its students and its state's citizens for a century. I congratulate the faculty, staff, alumnae, and students of the College of St. Catherine on their 100 years of excellence. I know that they will continue their great tradition for the next 100 years.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## IN RECOGNITION OF GEOFFREY "ROCKY" MYERS, RECIPIENT OF THE 2004 GAGLIARDI TROPHY

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President. I rise today to recognize and congratulate Geoffrey "Rocky" Myers, the senior strong safety at Wesley College in Dover, DE, who has been named the recipient of the 12th annual Gagliardi Trophy. This award is given annually to the outstanding football player in the NCAA Division III and is the Division III equivalent of the Heisman Trophy. His recognition demonstrates the success that comes from hard work, perseverance, and the experience of a remarkable team as well as a dedicated coach, and the support of an outstanding college.

The Gagliardi Trophy was presented to Rocky on December 16, 2004, in Salem, VA, in the presence of his proud parents, Gilbert and Cheryl. Unlike the Heisman, this trophy, sponsored by Jostens, Inc. and administered by the SJU J-Club, recognizes excellence in academics and community service, as well as athletics.

A native of Bowers Beach, DE, Rocky attended W.T. Chipman Middle School and Lake Forest High School through his sophomore year and finished his high school career, graduating second in his class, at Caesar Rodney High School in Camden, DE. At Wesley, Rocky played in all 10 games of the 2004 season for the 8-2 Wesley College Wolverines and totaled 124 tackles, 62 of which were solo tackles, along with 62 assists. Rocky also had 6.5 tackles for a loss of 20 yards and five interceptions for 84 yards. A "Football Gazette" National Player of the Week, ECAC Co-Defensive Player of the Week and three-time ACFC Defensive Player of the Week, Rocky ranks 11th nationally with 12.4 total tackles per game, 13th with 1.7 passes defended per game and 30th with 6.1 solo tackles per game this season.

Rocky was named to the All-ACFC and All-ACFC Academic Team for all four years of his college career. One of only three Division III players and 15 total scholar-athletes, Rocky was named to the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame's 2004 National Scholar-Athlete Class. He is the only wolverine to be named a team captain three consecutive years.

In addition to his expertise and agility on the football field, Rocky is a 4.0 academic record student who is majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. He was selected for his academic achievements and leadership on campus and in the neighboring communities. Rocky has done volunteer work with the youth reading program at North Dover Elementary and in the Guidance Office of the Dover Central Middle School. He has also spent time

helping the senior citizens of Fred-erica, DE, relocate to their new senior facility and was a camp counselor at the St. Thomas More Middle School Youth Basketball Camp.

At Wesley, Rocky was a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for the past three years, as well as a Wesley College tutor for four years. Rocky's academic achievements include a nomination to the "USA Today" Academic All-American, National Dean's List and U.S. Achievement Academy College All-American Scholar.

The Gagliardi Trophy is named for John Gagliardi, legendary head coach at St. John's University (SJU) in Collegeville, Minnesota, where he became the most successful coach in college football history with 409 wins on November 8, 2003. Gagliardi currently has 421 career victories in his 56 years of coaching, 52 of those being at SJU. College Presidents nominate their top student-athletes for this award. The J-Club Board of Directors narrows the field to 10 finalists and a national selection committee selects the winner. Dr. Scott Miller, President of Wesley College, nominated Rocky. In the words of Dr. Miller, "Rocky is a student-leader of significant note. Students like him emerge only once in a generation. The fact that he is an athlete makes his accomplishments even more noteworthy."

Today, I rise to extend congratulations and best wishes to Rocky Myers and his family and all of the fine students, athletes, coaches and faculty at Wesley College that helped to make this award possible. We wish him fun times relaxing in the California sun this summer and the best of luck as he pursues graduate school in the fall.●

## RETIREMENT OF JESSE L. POOR

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jesse L. Poor, Deputy to the Commander, Anniston Army Depot, United States Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command upon his retirement from Anniston Army Depot and a life of service to the Nation. Born in Crestview, FL, Mr. Poor earned an associate of applied science degree in personnel management and supervision from Gadsden State College, a bachelor of arts degree in history and human resource management from the University of Alabama, and he is also a graduate of the Harvard University Program for Senior Executive Fellows.

The work that Jesse Poor did during his tenure at the Anniston Army Depot has been exemplary. His dedication is evidenced by the number of awards he has received in recognition of his outstanding work and service to the men and women of the U.S. Army. Under Jesse's leadership, the Anniston Army Depot's revenue more than tripled and

the direct labor hour execution more than doubled, all in a recent 3-year span.

Jesse has been a catalyst in business development and partnering efforts that have established Anniston Army Depot as a leader within DOD in such efforts. In November 2000, he was instrumental in partnering efforts between Anniston Army Depot and General Dynamics for the production of the Army's Stryker vehicle to support brigade combat teams. As a result of his efforts, the partnership developed production capabilities and began actual production within a few months at Anniston with the first Stryker produced in March 2002. The result was fielding the vehicle on time in spite of a nearly 1-year delay to the contract award due to protests from other bidders. As of November 2004, 625 Strykers have been produced.

Jesse L. Poor is to be commended for his exemplary achievements and service to the Nation. Jesse's steady, calm, and visionary presence has fostered the successful melding of the 5,600 civilians, military and contractor members of Anniston Army Depot into a cohesive force supporting the Army's readiness. His vast expertise in depot maintenance, focus on production and efficiency, coupled with high quality standards, set the stage for an improved financial posture. Jesse's commitment to the goals and ideals of the Army is without equal and reflects great credit upon himself, the U.S. Army Materiel Command and the U.S. Army.

I wish Jesse and his family the best now and into the future.●

## RETIREMENT OF LLOYD H. ROSS

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Lloyd H. Ross upon his retirement from Newark High School in Newark, DE, after more than 34 years of dedicated service. He is a man with a kind heart, diverse interests and great abilities. Lloyd embodies the best of Delaware.

Lloyd was born on August 25, 1948 in Nicholson, PA. He graduated from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania with a B.S. in Music Education in 1970. He then went on to complete his Master's in Music Education at West Chester University in 1974. Lloyd has also done postgraduate work at Peabody Conservatory, Berklee College of Music, University of Delaware, Ithaca University and Villanova University.

During the last year of his Master's program at West Chester University, Lloyd received a job offer from Newark High School. He commuted from West Chester to Newark for the year, and then moved to Newark. The rest, as they say, is history. Lloyd has been a fixture at Newark High School ever since and became an institution there over time.